

American Crane & Equipment Corporation Celebrated Manufacturing Day with Tours for Middle and High Schoolers

American Crane celebrated Manufacturing Day (October 7, 2016) this year by inviting two local school districts to tour their plant and learn about careers in manufacturing. The two groups of middle and high school students also built a Rokenbok gantry crane that was fully operational.

Douglassville, PA ([PRWEB](#)) October 07, 2016 -- On September 26th and 27th American Crane & Equipment Corporation, a manufacturer of overhead electric cranes and hoists, celebrated Manufacturing Day (October 7, 2016) a bit early by inviting Reading and Boyertown School District's 9th and 10th grade students to tour their plant and participate in a presentation highlighting careers in manufacturing.

Manufacturing Day, officially recognized on the first Friday in October, is a day set aside to inspire the next generation of manufacturers. According to the Manufacturing Day website, a need for skilled manufacturing workers was identified in the 2001 Manufacturing Institute's Skills Gap Report. This report showed the mismatch between the skills of available workers and skills that manufacturers demand. The 2015 Skill Gap Report reinforced those findings, which is why many efforts are being made to encourage careers in manufacturing.

For several years, American Crane has offered tours of their plant and operations in an effort to educate students and the public about the many opportunities manufacturing can offer. During American Crane's plant tour, students learned how knowledge of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) relates to jobs in a manufacturing setting. Students first observed mechanical designers and engineers working with a computer-aided design software (CAD) and a computer-aided engineering program (CAE) called Solid Works. This program helps engineers to design and visualize a product through a 3D concept. To work with this software it is imperative to understand the mathematical equations that support plot lines and curves, the foundation of drafts and drawings.

While walking through the manufacturing floor, students saw various areas where raw materials are received in, prepared, and machined for production. American Crane's tour guides explained that programming and operating complex machinery requires a solid knowledge of mathematics, geometry and even physics.

Students also learned that STEM education is imperative for innovative manufacturing. To create and manufacture a product (especially custom designs) requires a team of skilled workers with a comprehension STEM background. This is because STEM education teaches skills like problem solving, evaluating, and making sense of information used by designers, engineers, fitters, mechanics, welders, electricians and many other positions in a manufacturing organization.

Prior to the tours, students listened to a presentation given by American Crane's Human Resources Manager describing employment opportunities available at a manufacturing company. The students learned about the "life of a crane" and all the people involved in making overhead lifting equipment a reality, from sales to production and everyone in-between. The presentation gave the students great information about specific skills and the education required for these positions.

Each school also built a model-size Rokenbok gantry crane. The students divided themselves into task-oriented teams to gather, separate and assemble parts and assigned one student to be the project manager. When completed, the gantry crane had a fully operational trolley and hoist and stood a little over 2.5 feet.

American Crane strongly believes in supporting programs in STEM education, and national events like Manufacturing Day (MFG Day). These programs highlight numerous careers available in the manufacturing sector. A career in manufacturing not only pays well, but is very rewarding too. In an interview, American Crane's Executive Vice President Karen Norheim was asked how she would describe what it is like to work in manufacturing. Karen responded, "Where else can you follow a product from concept to physical existence while helping to solve complex problems that have a real-world impact for customers!"

American Crane & Equipment Corporation is a privately held U.S. company and a leader in overhead lifting equipment. For more than 45 years, the company has been manufacturing high quality specialty lifting equipment for unique applications.

To learn more about American Crane's services and distributed products, please send inquiries to info@americancrane.com, visit our website at www.AmericanCrane.com or call us at 1-877-877-6778, Ext. 224.



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Contact Information

Angel Passarelli

American Crane & Equipment Corporation

<http://www.americancrane.com>

+1 877-877-6778 Ext: 294

Beth Lerario

American Crane & Equipment Corporation

<http://www.americancrane.com>

877-877-6778 271

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